Internet Services to Passengers

4758. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide internet services to passengers through telecom bandwidth along its more than 60,000 kms. track network;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on laying of optical fibre cable along track network; and

(d) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to provide Internet Service through Cyber Cafes at the Railway Stations in a phased manner. Presently, optical fibre cable is available only on 26,000 Route KMs along the railway track and work is in progress on another 6000 Route KMs.

(b) These cyber cafes will be provided on 51 important stations to start with and will have facilities such as Internet, E-mail, Audio/Video chatting, Internet telephony etc.

(c) and (d) The existing cost of laying optical fibre cable on an average is Rs. 2 lakh per kilometer approximately. Rail Tel, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Railways, is executing the project and it is expected that by year 2008, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) will be provided on about 40,000 Route KMs.

High Speed Freight Train Corridor

4759. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has been asked to set up a dedicated high speed freight train corridor to connect major ports of country with four metros;

(b) if so, whether the Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojana framed by Railways envisages laying rail lines along Golden Quadrilateral of roads that is being laid to link four metropolitan cities;

(c) whether Railways have decided to lay a track specifically for high speed freight trains;

(d) if so, steps Government propose to take to implement the same; and

(e) whether Railways has already submitted the plan on dedicated track for freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Railways has initiated preparation of a blueprint for developing dedicated freight corridors on the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals.

Garbage Cleaning

4760. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unsatisfactory performance of Rail Track Vacuum Suction Cleaning Machine imported at a cost of Rs. 9.29 crore resulted in non-realisation of expected benefits, consequently, the garbage cleaning work is done manually through contractual agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy of Government regarding garbage cleaning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Rail Track Vacuum Suction Cleaning Machine was procured at a cost of Rs. 9.29 crore and commissioned on Central Railway in February 02, for the cleaning of railway track in sub-urban area in Mumbai. Since its commissioning, the machine has been working on sub-urban area of Central Railway and the performance of machine has been quite satisfactory. The same has also been appreciated by public and media. However, there is a limit up to which the machine is able to clean on either side of the track. Further, since the requirement of cleanliness on the sub-urban section of Mumbai area is much higher than the capacity of this machine, the cleaning work is also being supplemented further by manual cleaning through contractual agencies.

(c) The garbage cleaning of track is done through machine or manual means with a view to improve the general maintenance environment and to ensure safety.